employees of the Central Government for 1995-96. Group B employees are not covered under these orders. If any Ministry or Department have paid the bonus wrongly to Group B employees. It is for them to make recoveries and take suitable action against responsible persons. For this no specific instructions are considered necessary.

(d) to (g) The employees working in the Ministry of Railways in the scale of Rs. 1640—2900 have been paid Productivity Linked Bonus for the financial year 1995-96. Since the employees of this category in other Central Ministries have not been paid ad hoc bonus. This issue of recovery of Bonus from aforesaid staff of this Ministry is being considered by the Railways.

Selection of Judges from Professional Advocates

1102. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judges are selected" from Professional Advocates;

(b) whether Bar Council of India and Bar Councils of States are being consulted before recommending the names by the concerned High Courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW. AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) As per provisions of Articles 217(2) of the Constitution a person who has held Judicial Office in the Territory of India or has been an Advocate of a High Court for at least 10 year is eligible for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(b) and (c) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts are made in consultation with the constitutional authorities pescribed in Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India which does not provide for consultation with the Bar Council of India and Bar Councils of States.

Amount Transferred as NPA in Punjab & Sind Bank, Indian Bank and Andhra Bank

1103. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases and amount involved which have been transferred as Non-performance Accounts by Punjab and Sind Bank, Indian Bank and Andhra Bank during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number out of them which exceed Rs. 25 lakh and were sanctioned during the above years and have become NPA bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any violation of Reserve Bank of India guidelines in the above cases have been detected; if so, whether responsibility for the violations has been fixed with names of the officers involved; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that non-performing assets (NPAS) of Andhra Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank and Indian Bank are as under:—